



*John Crook*

# Utah Historical Quarterly

State Capitol, Salt Lake City

Volume 6

April, 1933

Number 2

## JOHN CROOK'S JOURNAL

I was born in Township of Trenton, Lancashire, England, October eleventh, 1831. I attended Bertinsshaw Sunday School, "Methodist," until between 10 and 11 years old.

About 9 years old I was sent to the Eagley Bridge Mills, winding spools for Father; he was tape weaving. My sister Alice and I made a full team, half the time each in factory, and the other attending school. Children were not allowed full time until 13 yrs. past, though I was of large stature and passed examination about 12 yrs. I was brought up strictly moral and was religiously inclined.

My father heard of a new religion and went to Bolton to hear them preach, and in Sept. 1840 he and Robert Holden were baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ, L. D. S. About this time my father would have me and sister Alice go with him to Bolton, attending the meetings, 2½ miles, walking by his side, each hold onto his hands. It was not until I was about 12 years old that I attended regularly. About that time a Sunday School started and in course of time I became a teacher. In the summer of 1844 the L. D. S. held meeting in a Chapel on Bury St. beside a great factory. One Sunday after coming out of Sunday School and going into the meeting house I saw the stand was decorated with crepe; I inquired what that was for, and was told this was in honor of the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith. In the spring of 1847 I was baptised by Uncle Peter Mayhs in the brook by Hallith Wood.

While a little boy in petticoats, I was playing in the fire, my clothes caught fire, a neighbor Lady ducked me into a rain barrel. We lived 7 years in that house, moved to another house, lived about 7 years there, and then moved to a new house called Haslems Row on Darwin Road near Dunscar Village. Our village was called Toppings; we lived about half way between. After arriving at 12 years I was set to weaving tapes, attending 2 looms of 50 shuttles, under Wm. Cooper, earning at first 6 shillings per week, increased to 8 shillings with overtime, some-